GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2283
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2015
Poverty in India
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether one third of population of India are living Below Poverty Line (BPL) as per assessment of the World Bank;

(b) if so, the details and State-wise present position thereof both in urban and rural areas separately;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the corrective and effective measures taken by the Government for upliftment of people living BPL?
ANSWER

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINISTRY OF PLANNING
AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
RAO INDERJIT SINGH

(a) & (b): No, Madam. The World Bank's Policy Research Note titled "Ending Extreme Poverty and Sharing Prosperity: Progress and Policies" released in October, 2015, states that for 2011-12, India's poverty rate using Uniform Reference Period (30-day recall for consumption of both food & non-food items to measure expenditure) based consumption expenditure was 21.2 percent. It also mentions that the poverty rate for India based on Modified Mixed Reference Period (MMRP) (it modifies the 30-day recall to a 7-day recall for some food items and to a 1-year recall for low-frequency non-food consumption items) consumption expenditure translates to 12.4 percent for 2011-12. The World Bank has not released State-wise poverty estimates for urban and rural India separately.

(c): The World Bank estimates poverty in the member countries on the basis of the international poverty line in order to monitor progress in reduction of poverty worldwide. The erstwhile Planning Commission did not use the international poverty norms set by the World Bank to estimate number of poor in the country primarily because international poverty line does not distinguish between rural and urban areas or between different States of the country.

(d): The Government has initiated various measures to improve the quality of life of the people and to reduce poverty in the country through direct intervention by implementing specific poverty reduction and mitigation programmes. These include Prime Minister's Jan-DhanYojana (PMJDY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation Mission (AMRUT), Housing for All, National Health Mission (NHM), Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyaan (SSA), Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Swachh Bharat Mission, National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)/ National Food Security Act (NFSA), road connectivity through the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti BimaYojana, the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, etc. There are many other initiatives which are directly taken by the State Governments keeping in view the State and district-specific requirements. The emphasis of the Government is on "Sabka Saath, SabkaVikas" which symbolizes inclusive development.